



**SCHEDULES & MASS INTENTIONS**

**Week of December 23, 2018**

**Sat 4:00 PM** James & Katherine Delorm by Scott & Marge Munger  
**Sun 11:00 AM** For the People  
**Christmas Eve 6:00 PM St. Agnes** For the People  
**8:00 PM** Carl & Martha Munge by Scott & Marge Munger  
**Christmas Day 11:00 AM** For the People  
**Wed 9:00 AM** For the People  
**Thurs 9:00AM** For the People  
**Sat 4:00 PM** Guy Joseph Chicoine by Marilyn, Janette, Monica & John Chicoine  
**Sun 11:00 AM** Gil, Ellie & Mike Kupfer by Laura & Pam

**Parish Support**

**Offering for the weekend of December 16, 2018**  
**(Our Goal is \$1,250.00 each week)**

**Sunday Collection**

<b>Loose</b>	<b>\$283.00</b>
<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>\$796.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1079.00</b>
<b>Utility Fund</b>	<b>\$451.00</b>

**Important Change: Checks:** The Diocese has informed us that we are technically St. Mary Parish Charitable Trust in terms of financial matters and not Our Lady of Good Help. So please **make out any checks to St. Mary Parish** from now on. Thank you.

**GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER. - 2 Corinthians 9:7**

**Readings for the Week of December 23, 2018**

**Sunday:** Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45  
**Monday:** Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45  
**Tuesday:** Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14  
**Wednesday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22  
**Thursday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
**Friday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Mt 2:13-18  
**Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35  
**Next Sunday:** 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24

*Pray for .....*

*The safety of our service men and women working as peacekeepers in today's trying times and for all who are ill, especially Lindsey Layn, Linda Bunn, Richard Barra, Mary McManus, Virginia Wolf, Carlita La Porte, Joel Rivera, Ginger Stearns, Betty Ferraro, Joseph Duprey, Charlotte Swain, Marilyn Morris, Mary Doherty, Ann-Marie Ford, David Philipsen, Katherine Bryant, Gloria Peduto, Rene Hendricks, Brendan Holbritter, Rosa Santos and Brian Kilpeck (son of Wanda Murray).*

**Ministry Schedule**



<b><u>Eucharistic Ministers</u></b>	<b><u>Lectors</u></b>
12/22 Mary Bugnacki	Laurie Bertrand
12/23 Guy Beck	Terry Zimmer
12/24 Marge Munger	Wanda Murray
12/25 Bob Rojecki	
12/29 Diane Benware	Marge Munger
12/30 Sally Foster	Bernie Carr
<b><u>Gift Bearers</u></b>	<b><u>Altar Servers</u></b>
12/22 R. Howland Family	David Bertrand
12/23 Glenda & Bob Gearwar	BThornton&NDepatie
12/29 C. Mitchell & K. Decker	Jordan Bertrand
12/30 S. Ouelette Family	A. Depatie & M. Harding

**Collection Counters**



12/23 Glenda Gearwar & Tina Wiles  
 12/30 Helen Williams & Katherine Bryant  
 01/06 Mike Frankiewicz & Carol Bertrand



**St. Mary's Cemetery**

Location: R1T 73 E. Forest Dale Rd, Brandon  
 Contact Information - Please call St. Mary's Rectory. The cemetery is closed for the winter.

**PARISH WEBSITE**

Please visit our parish website: [www.saintmaryagnes.org](http://www.saintmaryagnes.org) for updates, news, activities, schedules of liturgical ministries and various resources to help you. For suggestions on our website, send your ideas to: [gale@ottercreekmedia.com](mailto:gale@ottercreekmedia.com).

**Office is open on Wednesday**  
**10:00 am—3:00 pm**  
**Thursday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm**  
**Parish Hall Library— by appointment.**  
**Please call Emilie at 458-7962**

**2nd Collection for weekends in Dec.:**  
**12/25 Christmas Offering**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**From the Pastor:** Firsts are always fondly remembered. I look forward to celebrating my first Christmas at Our Lady of Good Help parish with Mass at 6:00pm at the little Church of St. Agnes and at 8:00pm at Saint Mary's Church on Carver St. where luminaries will line the street. I imagine that Carver Street will be a beautiful sight to behold. May these luminaries remind us of our need to let Christ's light shine through us for all to see. I wish you and your loved ones a merry Christmas and may God grant all of you many blessings in the new year. Fr. Moe

**Contribution Envelopes** are now available at the back of the church. Please check off your name when you take yours and those without may sign up for unused numbers that are available. Thank you

**Office Hours:** Next week the office will be open on Friday, December 28th from 10:00-3:00. Thank you.

**A reminder to all Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers:** Throughout the entire Christmas season Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers will be part of the entrance and recessional processions. The Christmas season begins on December 24<sup>th</sup> and ends with the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord on January 13<sup>th</sup>. Those scheduled to serve as Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers are asked to be in the sacristy 10 minutes before the start of Mass. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated. Thank You! Fr. Moe

**Christmas Mass Schedule:**

**Vigil of Christmas** (Christmas Eve):  
 4:00 PM at St. Alphonsus in Pittsford  
 6:00 PM at St. Agnes in Leicester  
 8:00 PM at Our Lady of Good Help in Brandon

**Christmas Day:**  
 9:00 AM at St. Alphonsus in Pittsford  
 11:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of Good Help

**New Year's Mass Schedule:**  
**New Year's Eve:** 4 PM Vigil at Our Lady of Good Help  
**New Year's Day:** 9 AM Mass at St. Alphonsus  
 11 AM mass at Our Lady of Good Help

**Diocesan News: The Radiant Light of Christ:** "Your light will come, Jerusalem; the Lord will dawn on you in radiant beauty. You will see his glory within you; the Lord will dawn on you in radiant beauty." During this past season of Advent, those who pray morning prayer daily within the Church's Liturgy of the Hours prayed this poetic antiphon as a response to a short reading. So many of the images of Advent and Christmas are connected to this idea of Christ's light breaking into the world, especially in the songs we sing: "Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light ..." or "Son of God, love's pure light. Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace" or "Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in his wings." (Name those tunes). The antiphon cited above sees this light as not just a moment in time but as continuous: Christ's glory will dwell within Jerusalem, will remain present now within this world. The Church's teaching takes this "indwelling" even further. On Wednesday of the first week in Advent, one of the readings for daily prayer is from a sermon by St. Bernard. He writes, "We know that there are three comings of the Lord. The third lies between the other two. It is invisible, while the other two are visible. ... In his first coming our Lord came in our flesh and in our weakness; in this middle coming he comes in spirit and in power; in the final coming he will be seen in glory and majesty." Imagine! The spirit and power of Christ dwells within us already! It is not just out there somewhere. It is personal in every one of the baptized waiting to be awakened. My prayer has been captured this season with pondering that wonderful truth that those who believe and have been baptized have this gift within us. I've asked myself how is the radiant light of Christ directing my life? An immediate answer is for the light of Christ to confront the darkness of sin in my life. This requires the most immediate of all acknowledgements in faith: I need to be saved. There is an incredible moment that occurs in our lives when we turn to that Light and say, "Be merciful to me Lord, a sinner." It is a prayer of abandonment to Christ's mercy but also to His embrace and loving guidance. In allowing His light to remove the darkness from my life and fill me with His spirit and power, I become more of Him and less of myself, cooperating with that grace in living out a Christian life. May our prayer this Christmas be that the light of Bethlehem be embraced by all believers so that we maybe bearers of that light to a world that continuously needs it.

Yours in Christ, The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne

**Reflections for the Week**

It's almost Christmas. My family always celebrates on Christmas Eve and that's when we open presents, so it's really almost Christmas for me. Christmas is tomorrow with my family. All through Advent we've all been waiting and watching. I've been reading an Advent calendar book – it has a dated essay for each day leading up to Christmas. I gave my nephew's boy a chocolate Advent calendar. It continues a tradition. The season has its own challenges – trying to get grading done and grades in, preparing for Christmas by decorating and buying presents, travelling. And with all the stress it can be overwhelming and distracting. I've been stressed and distracted. It's sometimes hard to stay focused on the goal. I read something recently, maybe in the online retreat group, maybe in the Advent book (I've been stressed and distracted) about why the Christmas carols say "The Lord is come" and "Christ is born" instead of "The Lord has come" or "Christ was born." I mean, it's past tense, right? It all happened a really long time ago. And as an English teacher I am very much into verb tenses and correct grammar. But the magic of Christmas is that it is not past tense. It is present tense and it continues. The first reading talks about the little town of Bethlehem that seemed too small and insignificant to make any difference for anything, but is remembered and revered (and sung about in Christmas carols) to this day as the birthplace of the savior whose "greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace." In the Gospel, when the pregnant Mary visits the pregnant Elizabeth, Elizabeth's baby (who will be John the Baptist) recognizes the Lord who will be born this week. The baby leaps for joy in his mother's womb. John will be the voice in the wilderness preparing the way for the Lord. And we spend Advent making our spiritual and secular preparations. This week is Christmas. In present tense we celebrate his birth. We should leap for joy today in anticipation of the birth that will save us. The Lord is come. This week the Lord is born, and he continues to live in our lives and in our hearts.